

Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 AF-06 EA-06

NEA-10 OIC-02 SP-02 L-02 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

/073 W

----- 122754

P R 210937Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1900

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, WTO-1

SUBJ: WTO ASSEMBLY: HEADQUARTERS SITE ISSUE

1. COMPETITORS FOR SITE OF PERMANENT HEADQUARTEES OF WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION (WTO) HAVE CAUSED THIS QUESTION TO BECOME PREDOMINANT ISSUE BEFORE FIRST WTO ASSEMBLY, AND THEIR PROCEDURAL MANEUVERINGS HAVE FORECLOSED TO THIS POINT EFFORTS OF OTHERS TO PROCEED EFFICIENTLY IN PLENARY ON OTHER BUSINESS. MANEUVERINGS OF MEXICAN DELEGATION ESPECIALLY HAVE BEEN SO VIGOROUS AS TO PROVOKE SHARP CRITICISM FROM OTHER LATIN AMERICANS WITHIN CAUCUS OF AMERICANS (IN WHICH US AND CANADA PARTICIPATE). TO CIRCUMVENT OBSTRUCTIONIST TACTICS IN PLENARY, ONCE ELECTIONS QUESTIONS SETTLED, ASSEMBLY ADOPTED US PROPOSAL MAY 19 BY VOTE OF 34(US)-8-38 TO ESTABLISH OPEN-ENDED ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE TO ADDRESS OTHER AGENDA BUSINESS. THIS COMMITTEE NOW WORKING CONSTRUCTIVELY ON BUSINESS BEFORE ASSEMBLY WHILE PLENARY REMAINS SEIZED OF HEADQUARTERS QUESTION, WHICH IT IS ADDRESSING OBLIQUELY THROUGH COMPETING PROCEDURAL MOVES.

2. MEXICO, SPAIN, SWITZERLAND (GENEVA), YUGOSLAVIA (ZAGREB),
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INDIA, PHILIPPINES, KENYA, GREECE (CORFU), AND TURKEY (ISTANBUL)

REMAIN ACTIVE COMPETIORS TO HOST PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS, AND NO CANDIDATE APPEARS CLOSE TO TWO THIRDS SUPPORT NECESSARY UNDER STATUTES TO SECURE HEADQUARTERS. CONCERNED BY THIS, MEXICO TOOK LEAD MAY 20 IN TABLING RESOLUTION CO-SPONSORED BY GREECE, KENYA, TURKEY (PLUS THREE NON-CANDIDATES) TO INVITE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO SET UP AD HOC GROUP TO EXAMINE "OBJECTIVE CRITERIA" AND REPORT BACK TO ASSEMBLY (WHETHER PRESENT ASSEMBLY OR SUBSEQUENT ONE LEFT UNCLEAR). ASSEMBLY AGREED BY VOTE THAT RESOLUTION (WHICH NOTABLY SEPARATED PREFERENCES OF MEXICO, INDIA, KENYA, GREECE AND TURKEY ON THE ONE HAND FROM SPAIN, GENEVA AND YUGOSLAVIA ON THE OTHER) REQUIRED TWO THIRDS SUPPORT FOR ADOPTION, WHICH IT THEN FAILED TO OBTAIN. US ABSTAINED, FOR WHICH BOTH PRIME CONTENDERS, SPAIN AND MEXICO, APPRECIATIVE.

3. WHILE DEBATE WILL CONTINUE ON QUESTION MAY 21, IT APPEARS INCREASINGLY UNLIKELY THAT DECISION WILL BE POSSIBLE AT THIS ASSEMBLY AND THAT WTO HEADQUARTERS WILL REMAIN PROVISIONALLY IN GENEVA AS CANDIDATES FOR PERMANENT SITE PURSUE OTHER AVENUES TO ROUND UP NECESSARY TWO THIRDS SUPPORT. ON THE OTHER HAND UNSTRUCTURED CHARACTER OF THIS ASSEMBLY, AND UNRESTRAINED TACTICS OF SEVERAL CANDIDATES, NOTABLY MEXICO AND INDIA, COULD LEAD TO PRECIPITATE AND UNPREDICTABLE ACTION BY THIS ASSEMBLY. SPANISH DELEGATION, WITH SPAIN IN CHAIR FOR PLENARY AND OFFERING ELABORATE AMENITIES AS HOST TO CONFERENCE, IS STANDING ASIDE FROM TACTICAL MANEUVERINGS OF OTHERS IN EXPECTATION PRESUMABLY THAT CIRCUMSTANCES PROPITIOUS FOR CANDIDACY OF MADRID IF ASSEMBLY DOES MOVE TOWARD DECISION.

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